

## REMARKS

The present application includes pending claims 1-31. Claims 27-31 have been allowed, while claims 2-8, and 15-21 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 14, 15, 17, and 20 have been amended as set forth above.

Claims 1, 9-14, and 22-26 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,579,240 ("Bjaerum"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, at least for the following reasons:

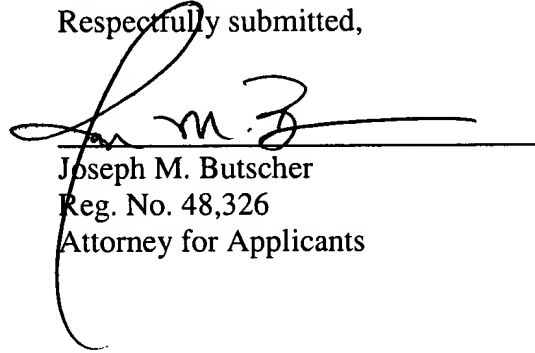
The Applicants respectfully submit that Bjaerum does not teach, nor suggest, an apparatus comprising a "first element being responsive to said Doppler data to generate a plurality of raw strain rate spectrums; and a second element being responsive to said plurality of raw strain rate spectrums to generate said plurality of strain rate spectrums," as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Bjaerum does not anticipate claims 1, and 9-13 at least for this reason.

The Applicants also respectfully submit that Bjaerum does not teach, nor suggest, a method comprising "generating a plurality of raw strain rate spectrums; and generating said plurality of strain rate spectrums in response to said raw strain rate spectrums," as recited in claim 14 of the present application. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Bjaerum does not anticipate claims 14, and 22-26 at least for this reason.

The Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims of the present application should be in condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the claim rejections, at least for the reasons set forth above. If the Examiner has any questions or

the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants.  
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment  
to the Deposit Account No. 07-0845.

Respectfully submitted,



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